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L4: Entry 1 of 1

File: USPT

Dec 11, 2001

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6330542 B1

TITLE: Automated internet quoting and procurement system and process for commercial printing

Brief Summary Text (11):

An auction based approach for providing printing and other document services is described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,826,244, issued Oct. 20, 1998 to Huberman. While the system disclosed there utilizes a computer network to speed communication between a customer and a plurality of potential suppliers, it still relies on a conventional bidding process by the potential suppliers in response to a description of a printing job provided by the customer.

Detailed Description Text (15):

In order for the print buyer to obtain multiple bids, the buyer must repeat this process several times to obtain several quotes from different print providers.

Detailed Description Text (131):

After the print buyer receives the price and specifications, the print buyer may either proceed to order the product or if the price is more than the buyer's budget, the buyer has the option of entering the maximum price the buyer would like to pay for the project and allowing the system to generate a new quote by having the system change certain specifications, as shown in FIGS. 4, 5, and 7 and represented by the "change options" box 49 in FIGS. 1A, and 9-12. However, it should be noted that this component by no means constitutes an auction system of any type and there is no guarantee the system can generate any savings for that particular type of project. The system merely gives the buyer options the buyer may not be aware of. These include options such as changing the paper weight, quality or finish, slightly changing the dimensions of the project, omitting or changing a coating, or increasing the turnaround time, as indicated at 50 in FIGS. 4, 5, and 7. All of these options can have a major impact on the price of the project. For example, a print buyer may have entered dimensions for a brochure which allow the brochure to only be printed three up on the press that is best suited economically and in terms of production for that particular project. However, if the brochure was even a small percentage shorter in length or width, the brochure might be able to be printed four up resulting in a much lower cost. The weight, quality, or finish of paper can have the same type of price impact. If the system cannot produce a quote at or below the budgeted amount, the system will still output the other options that result in a lower price. However, the intent of this component is to allow the print buyer to have as much information as possible in order to make the most informed decision with a minimal effort for the buyer.

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L3: Entry 1 of 1

File: USPT

Dec 11, 2001

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6330542 B1

TITLE: Automated internet quoting and procurement system and process for commercial printing

Brief Summary Text (19):

It is yet another objective of the invention to introduce cost savings into the printing marketplace by aggregating the demand for like products and sending those projects to printing providers that are the most economically efficient producers of those products based on equipment configurations and other economic considerations. Furthermore, it is the intent of the invention to generate these cost savings by increasing efficiency, not by lower profit margins for printing providers. Aggregating the volume of printed products results in greater operating efficiencies for printing providers, thereby allowing the printing providers to lower pricing without making any sacrifices in profit margins.

Detailed Description Text (23):

The catalog portion of the quoting function 32 is a primary component of the system and process. It uses a series of graphic interfaces, shown in FIGS. 2-8, which allow the print buyer to visually select the type of product for which they want to request a quote. In order to request a quote, the print buyer enters the catalog and selects a product. Any print buyer using the system may enter the catalog, which is typically accessed from the welcome screen, or home page of the application. Once at the catalog main page 40, FIG. 2, the print buyer may find specific products in the catalog via searching, by entering a text string, or browsing, by clicking until they reach the desired catalog product category. The catalog is subdivided into several categories of common printed material including categories such as marketing collateral, postcards, letterheads, envelopes, booklets and catalogs, newsletters, books, presentation folders, and digitally printed products. Upon accessing the product category the buyer desires, the buyer sees all of the products contained within that category.

Detailed Description Text (34):

Marketing Collateral: The marketing collateral category includes graphics of many common types of collateral pieces including sales and data sheets, brochures of various sizes and configurations, and newsletters. The standard variable options are available. In addition to the standard options, other options for perforations and other special bindery options are displayed using graphical interfaces.

Detailed Description Text (67):

The two custom products quoting functions 131 and 132 are for Marketing Collateral 133, Postcards 134, and Letterheads 135 and for Booklets, Newsletters, and Catalogs 138. These two categories of products allow the Print Buyer to obtain an immediate quote on virtually any type of product. The process for each of the product categories is as follows:

Detailed Description Text (68):

Marketing Collateral, Postcards and Letterheads: In this custom quotes interface 131, the Print Buyer will be asked the following questions using graphical

interfaces to help explain each one:

Detailed Description Text (169):

Each Print Provider is required to maintain the listing of jobs being accepted. This information will include the type of jobs currently being accepted (i.e. postcards, marketing collateral, envelopes) as well as quantity, turnaround time and pricing for those jobs and available presses as well as run lengths, turnaround time, and hourly rates for those presses for the custom quotes feature. A Print Provider may add, delete or edit any job or press or any quantity, turnaround time or price associated with that job or press, in their profile at any time. The information entered is sent to the workflow for review by a content administrator, and once approved, is submitted to the system database. When a Print Provider makes changes to their production availability profile, the job or press in question (for that Print Provider only) is temporarily on hold until the administrator verifies the changes. During this time, quotes and orders with similar job specifications will be directed to other Print Providers in the network. Changes to the profile do not affect jobs currently in production.

Detailed Description Text (170):

A Print Provider's Production availability profile is updated by navigating from the Print Provider home page to the View/edit production availability profile interface. There are two types of availability profiles. One profile is for standard job categories such as postcards or marketing collateral and the other is for presses for custom product quotes. The standard job categories profile consists of four primary options, which are viewable from the profile interface:

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L2: Entry 1 of 1

File: USPT

Dec 11, 2001

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6330542 B1

TITLE: Automated internet quoting and procurement system and process for commercial printing

Brief Summary Text (15):

It is another objective of the invention to provide the buyer with quotations that have been generated from multiple print providers based on criteria which the print buyer can easily change to determine the impact of those changes on the cost of the project.

Brief Summary Text (18):

It is another objective of the invention to provide an auto intelligence type function that will give the buyer all of the available options to produce a particular project at a given price which might include changing the paper selections, slightly altering the size of the project, or changing or omitting certain finishes to allow the buyer to make the most informed buying decision.

Detailed Description Text (14):

In many situations, the buyer will ask to revise the specifications to include a different paper stock or perhaps the size has changed. The entire process must be repeated.

Detailed Description Text (20):

There is always the chance of a human error in preparing the quote because either there is a miscommunication between the print provider's sales representative and the client or between the print provider's sales representative and the estimating department. The system eliminates this type of potential error.

Detailed Description Text (37):

Letterheads: The letterhead category includes a graphic of the front of a letterhead and graphic of the back of a letterhead. The standard variable options are available except that the buyer chooses the ink colors for the front and back of the letterhead separately. Since most letterheads are not printed on the back, the graphic representing the back always defaults to no printing on back and the buyer does not have to make any changes unless there is printing on the back. In addition, the print buyer must select the size which includes several standard options, indicate whether or not the letterheads are to be continues sheets or cut sheets, and indicate any perforations on the letterhead such as would be used for statements.

Detailed Description Text (42):

When the print buyer has selected the desired variables, the system uses the appropriate algorithm as outlined below to generate an immediate quote, as shown at 48 in FIG. 5. The print buyer can change any of these variables after receiving the quote and request another quote based on the new options, as indicated at 50 in FIGS. 4,5 and 7. This allows the printing buyer to immediately see the impact of any specification changes on the price of the project.

Detailed Description Text (131):

After the print buyer receives the price and specifications, the print buyer may either proceed to order the product or if the price is more than the buyer's budget, the buyer has the option of entering the maximum price the buyer would like to pay for the project and allowing the system to generate a new quote by having the system change certain specifications, as shown in FIGS. 4, 5, and 7 and represented by the "change options" box 49 in FIGS. 1A, and 9-12. However, it should be noted that this component by no means constitutes an auction system of any type and there is no guarantee the system can generate any savings for that particular type of project. The system merely gives the buyer options the buyer may not be aware of. These include options such as changing the paper weight, quality or finish, slightly changing the dimensions of the project, omitting or changing a coating, or increasing the turnaround time, as indicated at 50 in FIGS. 4, 5, and 7. All of these options can have a major impact on the price of the project. For example, a print buyer may have entered dimensions for a brochure which allow the brochure to only be printed three up on the press that is best suited economically and in terms of production for that particular project. However, if the brochure was even a small percentage shorter in length or width, the brochure might be able to be printed four up resulting in a much lower cost. The weight, quality, or finish of paper can have the same type of price impact. If the system cannot produce a quote at or below the budgeted amount, the system will still output the other options that result in a lower price. However, the intent of this component is to allow the print buyer to have as much information as possible in order to make the most informed decision with a minimal effort for the buyer.

Detailed Description Text (140):

Account Management 36--the function through which print buyers add, edit or delete account information such as contacts, credit card information and shipping addresses, as well as maintain user accounts within a master corporate account.

Detailed Description Text (150):

Each job is given an ID number automatically by the system once a print buyer requests a quote. The ID number, from that point on, is used to track job status. For any job, there will always be a status including on hold, in production, and completed. The print provider is required to update the status of a job each time that status changes. Any change in job status entered into the system will, upon approval, be viewable by the Print Buyer. For example, a Print Provider may require additional information about a job in order to begin. The Print Buyer is notified of this (on their personal home page and via inter-system electronic mail) as soon as the Print Provider provides the information and it is approved and submitted to the database.

Detailed Description Text (158):

A Print Provider updates job status (FIG. 16) by navigating to the "Update job status" interface. Here they select a new status from a drop-down menu of options and click a button to submit the changes into the workflow. These options include:

Detailed Description Text (166):

For every job, there is a series of steps, which occur from when the quote is generated, to when the job is closed. Each of these steps is tracked within the system and viewable from the Job history interface for that particular job. This is a read-only interface (with the exception of certain administrators with the proper access privilege), which enables the Print Provider to look up important information such as dates the file was sent/received, delivery dates, press check status, etc. The interface lists, line by line, each status change and the date that that change was stored in the database.

Detailed Description Text (169):

Each Print Provider is required to maintain the listing of jobs being accepted. This information will include the type of jobs currently being accepted (i.e.

postcards, marketing collateral, envelopes) as well as quantity, turnaround time and pricing for those jobs and available presses as well as run lengths, turnaround time, and hourly rates for those presses for the custom quotes feature. A Print Provider may add, delete or edit any job or press or any quantity, turnaround time or price associated with that job or press, in their profile at any time. The information entered is sent to the workflow for review by a content administrator, and once approved, is submitted to the system database. When a Print Provider makes changes to their production availability profile, the job or press in question (for that Print Provider only) is temporarily on hold until the administrator verifies the changes. During this time, quotes and orders with similar job specifications will be directed to other Print Providers in the network. Changes to the profile do not affect jobs currently in production.

Detailed Description Text (170):

A Print Provider's Production availability profile is updated by navigating from the Print Provider home page to the View/edit production availability profile interface. There are two types of availability profiles. One profile is for standard job categories such as postcards or marketing collateral and the other is for presses for custom product quotes. The standard job categories profile consists of four primary options, which are viewable from the profile interface:

Detailed Description Text (190):

The Print Provider can edit options such as quantity range and turnaround time for job categories or impressions per hour and hourly press rates for presses from the main profile interface using the following process:

Detailed Description Text (192):

Click the link titled "Edit" for the option desired

Detailed Description Text (195):

After changing any of the options mentioned above, but before updating the profile, the Print Provider will have the opportunity to preview the new profile.

Detailed Description Text (204):

To update contact information, a Print Provider navigates from their home page to the "View/update contact information" interface. They manually enter text changes into the fields where the information has changed. The fields will automatically populate with the current information thus eliminating the need to re-enter any current and accurate data. After changing any of these fields, but before updating the information to the system, the Print Provider will have the opportunity to preview the new changes.

Detailed Description Text (205):

Contact information may be added, deleted or edited at any time through the interface.

Detailed Description Text (207):

The invention now being fully described, it will be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art that many changes and modifications can be made thereto without departing from the spirit or scope of the appended claims.

CLAIMS:

1. A networked on line printing job procurement system, which comprises a networked data processing system including:

(A) a print buyer software component module for defining print buyer job specifications;

(B) a print provider software component module for specifying print provider job

information; and

(C) an automated printing job quoting software component linking said print buyer software component module and said print provider software component module to each other, said automated printing job quoting software component generating a first automated printing job quote based on said print buyer job specifications and said print provider job information, and thereafter suggesting a change to said print buyer job specifications to produce a second automated printing job quote lower than or equal to a maximum price set by a print buyer.

3. The networked on line printing job procurement system of claim 1 in which the suggested change includes at least one of paper weight, paper quality, paper finish, a dimension change, omitting a paper coating, changing a paper coating or changing turnaround time.

8. An on line printing job procurement process, which comprises:

(A) inputting print provider job information into a networked data processing system to create a database of the print job information;

(B) inputting a print buyer job specification into the networked data processing system;

(C) generating a first automated printing job quote utilizing the database of the print provider job information in response to the print buyer job specification;

(D) outputting the first automated printing job quote to the print buyer; and

(E) suggesting a change to said print buyer job specifications to produce a second automated printing job quote lower than or equal to a maximum price set by a print buyer.

9. The networked on line printing job procurement process of claim 8 in which the suggested change includes at least one of paper weight, paper quality, paper finish, a dimension change, omitting a paper coating, changing a paper coating or changing turnaround time.

16. An article of manufacture comprising computer program code stored in a computer readable storage medium, which computer program code will, when executed in a networked computer system, implement an on line printing job procurement process in the networked data processing system, said computer program code comprising:

(A) a first code segment for inputting print provider job information into a networked data processing system to create a database of the print job information;

(B) a second code segment for inputting a print buyer job specification into the networked data processing system;

(C) a third code segment for generating a first automated printing job quote utilizing the database of the print provider job information in response to the print buyer job specification;

(D) a fourth code segment for outputting the first automated printing job quote to the print buyer; and

(E) a fifth code segment for suggesting a change to said print buyer job specifications to produce a second automated printing job quote lower than or equal to a maximum price set by a print buyer.

17. The article of manufacture of claim 16 in which the suggested change includes at least one of paper weight, paper quality, paper finish, a dimension change, omitting a paper coating, changing a paper coating or changing turnaround time.

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L3: Entry 1 of 1

File: USPT

Dec 11, 2001

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6330542 B1

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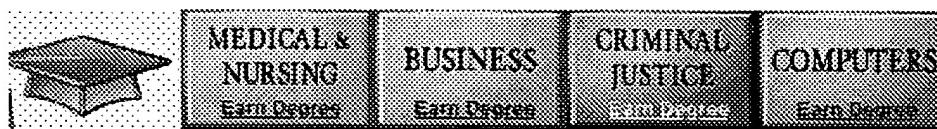
Detailed Description Text (170):

A Print Provider's Production availability profile is updated by navigating from the Print Provider home page to the View/edit production availability profile interface. There are two types of availability profiles. One profile is for standard job categories such as postcards or marketing collateral and the other is for presses for custom product quotes. The standard job categories profile consists of four primary options, which are viewable from the profile interface:

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We found 50 dictionaries with English definitions that include the word **portal**:

Tip: Click on the first link on a line below to go directly to a page where "portal" is defined.

❖ **General** (21 matching dictionaries)

1. [portal](#) : Merriam-Webster's Online Dictionary, 10th Edition
[[home](#), [info](#)]
2. [portal](#) : Compact Oxford English Dictionary [[home](#), [info](#)]
3. [portal](#) : Encarta® World English Dictionary, North American Edition [[home](#), [info](#)]
4. [portal](#) : Cambridge International Dictionary of English [[home](#), [info](#)]
5. [portal](#) : The Wordsmyth English Dictionary-Thesaurus [[home](#), [info](#)]
6. [portal](#) : The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language [[home](#), [info](#)]
7. [portal](#) : Infoplease Dictionary [[home](#), [info](#)]
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9. [portal](#) : Online Etymology Dictionary [[home](#), [info](#)]
10. [Portal](#), [portal](#) : UltraLingua English Dictionary [[home](#), [info](#)]
11. [portal](#) : Cambridge Dictionary of American English [[home](#), [info](#)]
12. [Portal](#) : Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia [[home](#), [info](#)]
13. [Portal](#) : Online Plain Text English Dictionary [[home](#), [info](#)]
14. [portal](#) : Webster's Revised Unabridged, 1913 Edition [[home](#), [info](#)]
15. [portal](#) : Rhymezone [[home](#), [info](#)]
16. [Portal](#) : AllWords.com Multi-Lingual Dictionary [[home](#), [info](#)]
17. [portal](#) : Webster's 1828 Dictionary [[home](#), [info](#)]
18. [portal](#) : The New Dictionary of Cultural Literacy [[home](#), [info](#)]
19. [Portal](#) : Columbia Gazetteer of North America [[home](#), [info](#)]
20. [portal](#) : WordNet 1.7 Vocabulary Helper [[home](#), [info](#)]
21. [portal](#) : LookWAYup Translating Dictionary/Thesaurus [[home](#), [info](#)]

Quick definitions
(Portal)

- **noun:** a grand and imposing entrance (often extended metaphorically) (Example: "*The portals of the cathedral*")
- **noun:** a site that the owner positions as an entrance to other sites on the internet (Example: "*A portal typically has search engines and free email and chat rooms etc.*")
- **noun:** a short vein that carries blood into the liver
- **name:** A surname (very rare: popularity rank in the U.S.: #42463)
- [Word origin info is available.](#)

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❖ Art (4 matching dictionaries)

22. portal : ArtLex Lexicon of Visual Art Terminology [[home](#), [info](#)]
23. PORTAL : Technical Glossary of Theatre Terms [[home](#), [info](#)]
24. portal : Glossary of Medieval Art and Architecture [[home](#), [info](#)]
25. portal : ODLIS: Online Dictionary of Library and Information Science [[home](#), [info](#)]

❖ Business (7 matching dictionaries)

26. portal : Travel Industry Dictionary [[home](#), [info](#)]
27. PORTAL : INVESTORWORDS [[home](#), [info](#)]
28. Portal : Homeglossary.com [[home](#), [info](#)]
29. Portal : E-Commerce and Marketing Dictionary of Terms [[home](#), [info](#)]
30. Portal : Construction Term Glossary [[home](#), [info](#)]
31. Portal : ELaunchsite Web Glossary [[home](#), [info](#)]
32. Portal : WebmasterWorld Webmaster and Search Engine Glossary [[home](#), [info](#)]

❖ Computing (10 matching dictionaries)

33. PORTAL, portal : Free On-line Dictionary of Computing [[home](#), [info](#)]
34. portal : Netlingo [[home](#), [info](#)]
35. portal : CCI Computer [[home](#), [info](#)]
36. portal : Marketing Terms.com - Internet Marketing Dictionary [[home](#), [info](#)]
37. portal : Computer Telephony & Electronics Dictionary and Glossary [[home](#), [info](#)]
38. portal : Glossary of Internet Terms [[home](#), [info](#)]
39. Portal : TECHNICAL [[home](#), [info](#)]
40. portal : whatis? [[home](#), [info](#)]
41. Portal : ILC Internet Terms [[home](#), [info](#)]
42. Portal : Linktionary Networking Glossary [[home](#), [info](#)]

❖ Medicine (3 matching dictionaries)

43. portal : Stedman's Online Medical Dictionary, 27th Edition [[home](#), [info](#)]
44. portal : The On-line Medical Dictionary [[home](#), [info](#)]
45. portal : Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary [[home](#), [info](#)]

❖ Miscellaneous (2 matching dictionaries)

46. PORTAL : Acronym Finder [[home](#), [info](#)]
47. PORTAL : AbbreviationZ [[home](#), [info](#)]

❖ **Sports** (1 matching dictionary)

48. portal : Hickok Sports Glossaries [[home](#), [info](#)]

❖ **Tech** (2 matching dictionaries)

49. Portal : Glossary of Coal Mining Terms [[home](#), [info](#)]
50. portal : Search Engine Dictionary [[home](#), [info](#)]

Phrases that include *portal*: [portal vein](#), [portal system](#), [hepatic portal vein](#), [portal hypertension](#), [portal to portal](#), [more...](#)

Words similar to *portal*: [door](#), [gateway](#), [more...](#)

Additional searches for *portal*...

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Refine Search

Your wildcard search against 10000 terms has yielded the results below.

Your result set for the last L# is incomplete.

The probable cause is use of unlimited truncation. Revise your search strategy to use limited truncation.

Search Results -

Terms	Documents
L17 and ((edit\$ or modif\$ or updat\$) with (criteria or condition\$ or data))	10

Database:
US Pre-Grant Publication Full-Text Database
US Patents Full-Text Database
US OCR Full-Text Database
EPO Abstracts Database
JPO Abstracts Database
Derwent World Patents Index
IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletins

Search:

Refine Search

Recall Text

Clear

Interrupt

Search History

DATE: Saturday, April 16, 2005 [Printable Copy](#) [Create Case](#)

<u>Set</u> <u>Name</u>	<u>Query</u>	<u>Hit</u> <u>Count</u>	<u>Set</u> <u>Name</u>
side by side			result set
DB=PGPB,USPT,USOC,EPAB,JPAB,DWPI,TDBD; THES=ASSIGNEE; PLUR=YES;			
OP=OR			
<u>L18</u>	L17 and ((edit\$ or modif\$ or updat\$) with (criteria or condition\$ or data))	10	<u>L18</u>
<u>L17</u>	L16 and 705/?..ccls.	22	<u>L17</u>
<u>L16</u>	L15 and (Internet or online or web or www)	952	<u>L16</u>
<u>L15</u>	(print\$ near2 service) and @ad<=20000627	3454	<u>L15</u>
<u>L14</u>	L13 and l10	6	<u>L14</u>
<u>L13</u>	L12 and l13	6	<u>L13</u>
<u>L12</u>	L11 or l9	7580	<u>L12</u>
<u>L11</u>	380/201,202,705/58,713/191,193.ccls.	1762	<u>L11</u>

Hit List

Your wildcard search against 10000 terms has yielded the results below.

Your result set for the last L# is incomplete.

The probable cause is use of unlimited truncation. Revise your search strategy to use limited truncation.

Clear	Generate Collection	Print	Fwd Refs	Bkwd Refs
Generate OACS				

Search Results - Record(s) 1 through 10 of 10 returned.

1. Document ID: US 6853989 B2

Using default format because multiple data bases are involved.

L18: Entry 1 of 10

File: USPT

Feb 8, 2005

US-PAT-NO: 6853989

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6853989 B2

TITLE: System and method for selecting and accounting for value-added services with a closed system meter

DATE-ISSUED: February 8, 2005

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Allport; Robert W.	Harlow Essex			GB
Kelly; Stephen	Hertfordshire			GB
Nicholls; Timothy J.	Standon Herts			GB
Ryan, Jr.; Frederick W.	Oxford	CT		

US-CL-CURRENT: 705/401; 705/1, 705/400, 705/402, 705/406, 705/408

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Abstract	Comments	Claims	KWIC	Drawn D
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2. Document ID: US 6601234 B1

L18: Entry 2 of 10

File: USPT

Jul 29, 2003

US-PAT-NO: 6601234

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6601234 B1

**** See image for Certificate of Correction ****

TITLE: Attribute dictionary in a business logic services environment

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Abstract	Comments	Claims	KWIC	Drawn D
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3. Document ID: US 6598023 B1

US-PAT-NO: 6598023

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6598023 B1

TITLE: Automated banking machine system using internet address customer input

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Abstract	Claims	KM/C	Drawn D
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4. Document ID: US 6442525 B1

L18: Entry 4 of 10

File: USPT

Aug 27, 2002

US-PAT-NO: 6442525

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6442525 B1

TITLE: System for authenticating physical objects

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Abstract	Claims	KM/C	Drawn D
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5. Document ID: US 6330551 B1

L18: Entry 5 of 10

File: USPT

Dec 11, 2001

US-PAT-NO: 6330551

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6330551 B1

**** See image for Certificate of Correction ****

TITLE: Computerized dispute resolution system and method

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Abstract	Claims	KM/C	Drawn D
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6. Document ID: US 6208974 B1

L18: Entry 6 of 10

File: USPT

Mar 27, 2001

US-PAT-NO: 6208974

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6208974 B1

TITLE: Method and system for managing wellness plans for a medical care practice

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Abstract	Claims	KM/C	Drawn D
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7. Document ID: US 6178407 B1

L18: Entry 7 of 10

File: USPT

Jan 23, 2001

US-PAT-NO: 6178407

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6178407 B1

TITLE: Computer apparatus and methods supporting different categories of users

[Full](#) | [Title](#) | [Citation](#) | [Front](#) | [Review](#) | [Classification](#) | [Date](#) | [Reference](#) | [Abstract](#) | [Detailed Abstract](#) | [Claims](#) | [KOMC](#) | [Drawn D.](#)

8. Document ID: US 6047259 A

L18: Entry 8 of 10

File: USPT

Apr 4, 2000

US-PAT-NO: 6047259

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6047259 A

TITLE: Interactive method and system for managing physical exams, diagnosis and treatment protocols in a health care practice

[Full](#) | [Title](#) | [Citation](#) | [Front](#) | [Review](#) | [Classification](#) | [Date](#) | [Reference](#) | [Abstract](#) | [Detailed Abstract](#) | [Claims](#) | [KOMC](#) | [Drawn D.](#)

9. Document ID: US 5918207 A

L18: Entry 9 of 10

File: USPT

Jun 29, 1999

US-PAT-NO: 5918207

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5918207 A

TITLE: Process and system for predictive resource planning

[Full](#) | [Title](#) | [Citation](#) | [Front](#) | [Review](#) | [Classification](#) | [Date](#) | [Reference](#) | [Abstract](#) | [Detailed Abstract](#) | [Claims](#) | [KOMC](#) | [Drawn D.](#)

10. Document ID: US 5907831 A

L18: Entry 10 of 10

File: USPT

May 25, 1999

US-PAT-NO: 5907831

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5907831 A

TITLE: Computer apparatus and methods supporting different categories of users

[Full](#) | [Title](#) | [Citation](#) | [Front](#) | [Review](#) | [Classification](#) | [Date](#) | [Reference](#) | [Abstract](#) | [Detailed Abstract](#) | [Claims](#) | [KOMC](#) | [Drawn D.](#)

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L18: Entry 1 of 10

File: USPT

Feb 8, 2005

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6853989 B2

TITLE: System and method for selecting and accounting for value-added services with a closed system meter

Application Filing Date (1):19981230Detailed Description Text (9):

In accordance with the present invention, the scanned information is then processed to determine if value-added services are being requested. In an alternate embodiment, the value-added services are manually selected by a user and the information read from the mailpiece is used as appropriate in determining the scope of the services and the accounting for the services. If a value-added service is requested, the appropriate accounting for those services is performed in meter 150. Once the accounting is completed the proper indication of the requested service is printed on the mail piece by printer 180 in the preferred embodiment, or by printer 158 in the alternate embodiment. In addition, an ad slogan or coupon may be selected based upon the addressee or other data. Such ad brokering is described in more detail below.

Detailed Description Text (19):

Advertising database 170, which may include an address demographics database 212, contains information concerning individual advertiser accounts, such as: advertiser name, advertiser address, preferred payment vehicle or arrangements (periodic invoice, direct credit card authorization, electronic funds transfer, etc.), ad data and the like, that have been established with the postage meter manufacturer. The address demographics database may employ any suitable database containing statistics relevant to certain geographic locations. As examples, various databases exist that contain detailed demographic information by zip code, such as: PRIZM available from Claritas Inc. (see Internet URL www.claritas.com), United States census information or any other database that is generally known and commercially available.

Detailed Description Text (21):

Referring now primarily to FIG. 6 while referencing the structure of FIGS. 1, and 2, once the available ad slogan/coupons are determined according to the restriction data described above, at 610, the relevant messages and their corresponding subsidy rate 207b are presented to the user on display 168. This provides the user with the opportunity to view and analyze the available messages along with their corresponding subsidy rate 207b. Next, at 612, the user selects a set of messages, which may be printed on envelope 20 in conjunction with a postal indicium. For the sake of clarity and brevity, it will be assumed that only one (1) message 70 is selected for printing in ad space zone 60a. However, those skilled in the art will recognize that, as described above, multiple messages may be printed. The user can feed envelope 20 through mailing machine 105 to effect printing. Using the information scanned by scanner 120 from envelope 20, at step 614, processor 110 using database 170 generates a data packet for use in printing selected message 70. This is occurring contemporaneously with meter 150 creating a print data packet for the indicium to be printed on the envelope. If printer 158 is printing selected message 70, the message print data packet is sent to meter 150 which merges the two

print data packets for printing the indicium and the message 70. At 616, meter 150 updates the user accounts to reflect the transaction information, such as: the date, the postage amount dispensed, the address 50, the selected message 70, the corresponding subsidy, any fees associated with providing the above described services and any other relevant data. When the user's ad subsidy account is reconciled at, for example a data center, the selected third party advertiser's account is updated to reflect the transaction information, such as: the date, the selected message 70, the corresponding advertising fee, any additional fees associated with providing the above described services and any other relevant data. At a later time, the data center exercises the preferred payment vehicle for the user and the selected third party advertiser, respectively.

Current US Cross Reference Classification (1):

705/1

CLAIMS:

8. A postage metering system comprising: a closed system meter including means for generating a indicium and means for printing the indicium; means operatively coupled to the closed system meter for scanning information, including recipient address, printed on an envelope; and means operatively coupled to the closed system meter for selecting value-added services corresponding to the envelope; wherein the generating means generates the indicium using the scanned information including the recipient address, the indicium including graphical representation of the value-added services, and the printing means prints the indicium on the envelope, said closed system meter further including means for accounting for the generated indicium and the value-added services.

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